

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS, AUGUST, 1919.

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Farm work.—August, 1919, was, on the whole, favorable for outdoor operations, except for the preparation of soil for winter grain seeding. This work made good progress from the upper Ohio Valley northeastward and in some north-central portions of the country, but in most other sections it was delayed by hard, dry soil. During the last few days of the month, however, the condition of the soil was improved by rain in many localities where drought had persisted, particularly in the eastern portions of Kansas and Nebraska, southern Missouri, and at places in the Ohio Valley, and this permitted better advance in the work of preparing seed beds for winter-grain sowing. There was some interruption to farm work in the Southern States by rain, especially during the last decade, but, otherwise, conditions were mostly favorable for farm work in that area.

Small grains.—August, 1919, was especially favorable for harvesting spring grains in the late districts and for thrashing both winter and spring grains in other sections of the country, except that thrashing was retarded by rain in the middle Atlantic States, parts of the upper Ohio Valley, and in some north-central districts about the middle of the month. Under the influence of rain and cooler weather early in the month, late spring grains in the higher elevations of the Rocky Mountain districts and in the far Northwest improved somewhat, but the rain came too late to be of material benefit to the early crops. As harvesting and thrashing of wheat progressed, the yields continued to show results below the previous expectations in both quantity and quality. The weather of the month was generally favorable for buckwheat in the Lake region and Appalachian Mountain districts, and this crop was in satisfactory condition at the close of the month in most sections where grown. Flax made satisfactory progress during August in the northern Great Plains; the harvest was in progress in South Dakota at the close of the month. Rice made favorable progress during the month in nearly all sections where grown; harvest and thrashing progressed favorably in the Gulf coast section, except for some delay by rain early in the third decade. Grain sorghums held up well in the southern Great Plains, despite the dry weather, and at the close of the month were in satisfactory condition; they had mostly headed out in Kansas.

Corn.—The rainfall early in August was very beneficial to corn in the upper Mississippi Valley and in parts of the Ohio Valley, but it continued too dry in the central Great Plains and portions of the extreme lower Missouri Valley. The crop in Iowa had mostly recovered from

the previous drought by the close of the first decade of the month. During the last half of the month there was also decided improvement in Ohio, central and southern Indiana, and much of Illinois, while late corn had improved somewhat in the eastern parts of Nebraska, and Kansas, and in southern Missouri, but the rain came too late to be of material benefit to the crop in general in the last-named localities. Early corn developed satisfactorily in Oklahoma, but the late crop was damaged by drought in portions of that State. Corn matured rapidly during the latter part of the month, and at the close it was mostly out of danger from frost in the north-central border States.

Cotton.—Moderate temperatures prevailed throughout the month in the cotton belt, and rainfall, on the whole, was mostly moderate, except that it was fairly heavy to heavy in the east Gulf and South Atlantic States, where, in considerable areas, from 8 to 12 inches were received. Cotton made fairly satisfactory advance in most sections, except that it was generally poor in the southeastern and more eastern States. The condition of the crop at the close of the month continued unsatisfactory, however, except that it was fairly good in Oklahoma, western Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, and in some restricted localities in other States. The condition was especially poor in much of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. Insects continued active and damaging in many places, particularly in eastern Texas, Louisiana, and the central and southern parts of the east Gulf States.

Potatoes, truck, pastures, and fruit.—In many central, northern, and western districts the rainfall was insufficient, and it was too warm for good development of potatoes, and at the close of the month this crop was in only poor to fair condition in most sections, although there was some improvement in the Rocky Mountain districts and the Lake region, as a result of the rain the latter part of the month. Pastures and truck were favorably affected by the prevailing weather of the month in most of the Southern, Southwestern and Northeastern States, and in much of the north-central portion of the country, but in many central, western, and northwestern localities it was too dry and progress was unsatisfactory. The month was generally favorable for fruit, except for considerable dropping of apples in the northeastern part of the country, while the storm of the 13th blew much fruit from the trees in the northern Appalachian Mountain districts and Central Atlantic Coast States.